

IRONWORKERS OPPOSE STRIKE IN NEW YORK.

Many of the Leaders in Their Union Talk of Secession from the National Organization if Radical Measures Are Adopted.

While officers of the New York Civic Federation are busy to-day trying to get officials of the American Bridge Company and of the International Association of Structural Iron and Steel Workers to meet, with a view to settling their differences, there is a strong sentiment, growing stronger all the time, in the local branch of the International Association to cut loose from the main body and keep out of trouble.

The principal reason for this is the dislike among the local men for the radical methods of President Frank Buchanan, of the International Association. Buchanan has a strong ally in Frank Neidig, President of the local union, which is known as the Housewrights and Bridgemen's Union. He believes that Buchanan should be backed to the limit in his demands.

The head of the opposition to this course is said to be Vice-President Samuel Parks, of the local union, who is now in Florida for his health. He is expected back in a few days, and it is then the break will come, if at all.

The Civic Federation has two points in view in its work. It desires first of all to persuade the officials of the American Bridge Company to meet Buchanan unofficially and have a talk. They think that if this meeting can be arranged the Bridge Company officials can get Buchanan to forego his demand that the negotiations be conducted through the national officers rather than with the local officers.

If, in the face of the feeling tending toward secession among the local men, he should insist that he handle the question, the Federation then hopes for the sake of the city and the effect such a move would have on public opinion to get Buchanan to permit the subway strikers to go back to work and make their fight altogether on such contracts as the Bridge Company may have with private concerns; in other words, he wants the subway eliminated as a factor in the struggle.

With these ends in view, Samuel Donnelly, Secretary of the New York Federation, called at the Ashland House to-day, where President Buchanan is stopping, and took him and President Neidig to the Federation rooms, where they had a long conference. All Donnelly would say after the conference was that the Federation was trying to get the contending parties together. Buchanan would not talk, but Neidig said:

"The President of the American Bridge Company met the national officers a year ago and a contract was signed. It did not prove satisfactory to the local unions and was turned down by them. I mention this to show that he would be establishing no precedent by meeting the national officers at this time."

Buchanan's threat to cause a general strike if his demands are not complied with has met with marked disapproval from the United Board of Building Trades, of this city.

The general feeling among the local labor leaders is that President Buchanan should take up the offer of the American Bridge Company to arbitrate its differences with its employees through local committees. They say there is nothing irregular in this, as whatever action the local committees would take would have to be ratified by the national officers.

An opening for a settlement along this line has been made through a reply sent President Buchanan to his letter addressed to the newly organized Association of Iron Erectors. The reply comes from the firm of J. B. & J. M. Cornell, and is as follows:

Replying to your favor of the 25th inst., addressed to the George A. Fuller Company, American Bridge Company, and J. B. & J. M. Cornell Company, in which you ask for a meeting with a committee from your national organization, I am requested to state to you that three representatives of the companies addressed compose the New York Local Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers and Erectors of Structural Steel and Iron Work. This committee is ready at any time to meet a local committee representing men employed in this city on the erection of structural steel and iron work. As the power of this committee is limited to New York and vicinity, it of course would be useless for us to meet any national committee from your organization.

FIRES TINY, BUT SET OVER-OCEAN MAILS HARLEM WHOOPING SLOW, LONDON SAYS

Milk Spilled, Police Sergeant Drenched and Neighbors Had Rough and Tumble Fight.

Two small fires and a bunch of funny incidents made upper Eighth avenue lively to-day. In responding to an alarm of fire in the store room of J. Isaacs, a pawnbroker at No. 2241 Eighth avenue, Truck 14 collided with two milk wagons and spilled lacteal refreshment for all the cats in Harlem in the gutters from one Hundred and Twenty-eight to One Hundred and Twenty-ninth street.

While the firemen were playing on the blaze Detective-Sergeant Edward Sugden dashed through the police lines and into the laundry of Quong Sing, which is in the burning building. He emerged with a big bundle of wash only to be struck with a bursting hose which deluged his clothes. The police say the fire damage was slight, but Isaacs claims \$100 worth of pledged goods were damaged and destroyed.

Meanwhile fire was started in the awning store of Henry Siegel, at No. 202 West One Hundred and Twenty-eighth street, two blocks away. A small store used for bending iron was overturned and Siegel and his six employees, who might have extinguished the blaze with a bucket of water, rushed into the street. An alarm was turned in but there were no engines to respond and the building burned merrily until Bicycle Policeman Hanley rode up and called assistance.

Adjoining the building is the Phoenix Stables, and there was a great scramble to get the horses and vehicles out. When the police and firemen arrived Siegel and Pat McKee, who had a blacksmith shop underneath the awning store, were fighting a desperate battle because McKee insisted Siegel had set the place afire.

FOUND DYING IN STREET.

Kaufman Was Lying Unconscious on Ninth Avenue Corner.

Postmaster Van Cott Declines to Shoulder Blame and Retorts with Figures.

LONDON, March 31.—Throughout the winter there has been much complaint on the part of the business men of the "falsely manner" in which the mails are despatched across the Atlantic. Lately this state of affairs has been growing worse. Letters posted in New York March 13 were only delivered in London late last evening.

The complaint from London that mails had been despatched across the Atlantic this winter in a "falsely manner" was brought to the attention of Postmaster Van Cott to-day. He said it was the first from London he had received, and he denied that there had been any delay at the New York Post-Office.

The Postmaster added that he did not believe the steamship companies could be blamed, either, for any slowness. The weather, he said, had been unusually severe on the Atlantic this winter and had held back the mail steamers. In spite of the great rush of business it had been despatched at the New York Post-Office with all possible promptness. Explaining a statement from London that letters posted in New York March 13 were not delivered in London until yesterday, March 20, Mr. Van Cott said: "The London mail despatched on the 13th was carried by the St. Paul and the Germanic. The St. Paul sailed at 10 A. M. with 2,681 bags, the Germanic at noon with the 'clean up' of 840 bags. A letter mailed after March 13 would have been carried by the Ivernia. The Ivernia arrived at Queenstown on March 20 and the mail was held in London for delivery on the following day."

BROKER TOWNSEND OUSTED.

Produce Exchange Expels Him for Discretionary Pool Dealings.

William M. Townsend, of William H. Townsend & Brothers, Produce Exchange Building, was expelled to-day from the Produce Exchange by the Board of Managers.

Charges were made against Mr. Townsend last week that he had been executing orders on the floor of the exchange for a concern that had been conducting a discretionary pool business.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WAGE EARNERS WHO WILL TAKE PART IN CIVIC FEDERATION.



"L" CHANGES HANDS TO-NIGHT

To-Morrow the Entire Manhattan System Will Have Passed from Control of George Gould into that of August Belmont.

BRYAN IN SKITT'S PLACE.

When you get aboard an "L" on your way to business to-morrow you probably won't be able to tell that the whole system has changed hands overnight, but that will be the fact. If you have any complaint to make the old officials of the company will not listen to you, because they will have no authority to pass on it.

The Interborough company, which was organized to run the subway, will swallow the whole "L" system, and instead of George Gould being at the head of the financial end of the corporation there will be August Belmont. Instead of Alfred Skitt being the general manager, E. F. Bryan will be the boss.

Under the terms of the 99-year lease, which has been signed, the transfer is to take place at midnight. All the details of the deal have been arranged. There was a final meeting of the Board of Directors of the Manhattan company to-day to wind up the business, and all that is to be done is the formal transfer. There will be no ceremonies to mark the event and even the guards and other employees won't be able to tell the difference for a few days.

Mr. Bryan is to give the men his answer to their demands for shorter hours and increased wages. He is confident that they will accept his answer, whatever it may be. He will not say what that is. He simply contents himself with saying that there will be no strike and with pointing to his past dealings with unions to prove that he can get along with the employees of the corporations with which he is connected.

While General Manager Skitt is to remain in the employ of the company for two years, it will be merely in an advisory capacity.

The man in charge of the operating department will be Frank Hedley. All the other employees of the "L" with the exception of Auditor Gaynor and Treasurer McWilliams will remain with the company so long as their services give satisfaction. Gaynor and McWilliams are protectors in their present places by the lease until 1906.

ALICE ROOSEVELT STARTS FOR HOME.

Thousands Bid Her Farewell and Bands Play as She Leaves San Juan.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, March 31.—Miss Alice Roosevelt sailed for New York at noon to-day on board the steamer Cosmo. Thousands of people congregated on the wharf and in boats to witness her departure, and there was music by several bands.

The band of the German cruiser Panther played as the Cosmo puffed to sea, and as the steamer passed the United States schoolship Alliance the latter saluted.

DIED IN THE STREET.

Unknown Man Succumbed to Illness While Walking.

A man about fifty years old, whose identity has not been established, was taken ill suddenly to-day in front of No. 38 Leonard street and died before medical aid reached him.

He was about 5 feet 10 inches tall, one hundred and twenty-five pounds in weight, with light complexion, blue eyes and a bald head. He wore a plain sack suit, white underwear, black striped shirt, laced shoes and a black derby hat.

ADD TO TELEPHONE CAPITAL.

Bell Company Increases Stock to \$250,000,000.

The action of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company's stockholders to-day in increasing the capital stock of the corporation from \$100,000,000 to \$250,000,000 is accepted in the financial community as foreshadowing the early merger of the Bell monopoly with the Western Union Telegraph Company.

CHALLENGE TO PREVOST.

Brother of Girl Who Shot at French Writer Wants to Fight.

PARIS, March 31.—The father says the brother of Emma Prevost, who yesterday fired two shots from a revolver at Maxime, the well-known novelist, as he was leaving the office of the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the

MASSAGE KNOCKS OUT DETECTIVES

Detailed to Investigate Uptown Establishments of This Kind, These Sleuths Are Rubbed and Kneaded to Exhaustion.

THEY BEG TO BE RELIEVED.

Detectives Cleary and Culhane, of the West Sixty-eighth street station, have been visiting "massage parlors" in their precinct for two weeks. They have been massaged so much that their complexions are as clear as a child's, but their necks and arms and fingers are so stiff that they are unable to write their reports.

Capt. Kear suspected that some of the "massage parlors" might not be all right and detailed the two sleuths to visit every one in the precinct. On the first day they were massaged five times, and when they got to the station-house that night they volunteered to pick up the soap and carry it out in the street.

The next evening they were not quite so chipper. In their reports they said that the massage persons seemed to take a fiendish delight in trying to tear their nerves and arteries out, but they could secure no evidence of anything disorderly. Cleary, who has to live almost exclusively on strawberry shortcake and ice cream because of stomach trouble, became so weak that he thought of hiring a substitute. Culhane's arms got so sore that every time a massage got hold of him he howled. Since last Saturday they have been dictating their reports to a stenographer.

"It wouldn't be so bad," said Cleary, "if we could deliver the goods, but all the places we have been in are on the level, and they have got some of the strongest massage parlors in them. I ever ran up against. Some of them could throw a horse across Central Park."

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He said there were ten in the party, all but Winnegar being completely masked by a handkerchief tied about the lower part of the face. He said that three men headed by Winnegar entered the car and with drawn revolvers ordered him and Motorman Morriest to throw up their hands and leave the car. As the conductor and motorman stepped from the car they were terribly beaten. Merna's story was not shaken on cross-examination.

Then Thomas Kenney took the stand. A warrant had been issued for Kenney's arrest, and he was surprised by his father to-day. His testimony was a deathblow to the hopes of the defense, although his answers were given with reluctance. He told of the arrest of the meeting in a secluded spot, of the masking of the band and of the advance upon the switch where the assault occurred, saying the intention of the gang was "to do up a couple of scoundrels."

He gave the names of the party, and said the affair was over in a minute.

The authorities believe that among the men arrested are those who killed Policeman Paul Mendelssohn.

LAKWOOD COACH RUNS INTO DITCH.

Lead Team Falls While Running Down Hill Near New Brunswick, but No One Is Injured.

The Lakewood coach, "Liberty," on its initial trip to-day from New York, in charge of James H. Hyde and Morris Howlett, had an accident while going down the Old Bridge hill, near New Brunswick, N. J.

While Mrs. Hamilton was driving, the lead team both fell down, running the wheeler with the coach into the ditch, but not overturning it.

The team was badly cut up, but no other injury was done.

ROOM FOR CHORUS GIRLS.

So Many Beauties in "The Runways" Stage Must Be Enlarged.

So many chorus girls will appear in the new production of "The Runways," at the Casino on May 1 that the stage will have to be enlarged.

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FIRST ROUND FOR HIGHER LICENSE

Assembly Takes Up New Excise Law and Those Favoring the Bill Show Winning Strength on Side Vote.

PLATT AND ODELL PUSH IT.

(Special to The Evening World.)

ALBANY, March 31.—The fight against higher license opened in the Assembly shortly before noon to-day, with Col. George V. Dunn, Chairman of the Republican State Committee, on the ground as grand generalissimo of the Raines law forces. Col. Dunn and Republican Leader Rogers talked with Speaker Nixon about the conduct of the Republican fight.

At this conference there were indications that the Excise bill would have a close call, but after a count of noses the Republican managers decided that they were in control and orders to take up the bill were given. George M. Palmer, the Democratic leader, was early in his seat, determined to fight the bill at every stage.

The Democrats are opposed to it solidly and several of the Republicans, especially those from Erie County, denounced the measure. But this is one bill on which Senator Platt and Gov. Odell are agreed, and the indications are that it will pass after a bitter fight. Platt was represented on the ground by Col. Dunn and Odell by his secretary, James G. Graham.

The excise lobby, reported to have \$150,000 with which to defeat the bill, worked desperately to break through the Platt-Odell ranks, but with no signs of progress. There are eighty-nine Republicans in the Assembly, and the machine managers could lose thirteen votes and still have enough to send the measure to the Governor. It already has passed the Senate, and is a caucus measure in the Assembly.

Many Republicans will vote for the bill with wry faces, because it makes a radical increase of 50 per cent. in the cost of Raines law licenses. When the Assembly was called in close session to-day, the speaker of the floor was cleared of spectators and the fight was soon on in earnest.

The higher license forces won first blood on a motion to suspend rules and debate the bill in preference to other measures. This was hotly opposed, but those in favor of the bill won out by a vote of 55 to 55.

Nearly a score of amendments were submitted to the bill. A number were technical. These attracting attention were by Mr. Hollister, making the license fee in New York \$25,000 instead of \$2,000; Mr. Sherry, making \$500 the minimum for a license; and Mr. Platt, permitting license holders to remain open all night; Mr. Curry, providing that colic and other diseases under the license law be referred to the Department of Public Health in New York for the maintenance of a permanent record of such cases.

The debate on the bill was bitter, the Assemblymen getting near the personal line.

TO INCREASE CITY'S DEBT LIMIT,

Assemblyman Conkling Proposes Amendment to Rapid Transit Law at Request of Mr. Rives.

(Special to The Evening World.)

ALBANY, March 31.—Assemblyman Conkling introduced an amendment to the Rapid Transit law to-day, repealing the \$50,000,000 limitation which now exists. The bill was sent here by Corporation Counsel Rives, and paves the way for the vast improvements in Brooklyn which Chief Engineer Parsons recently recommended.

About \$44,000,000 of the \$50,000,000 city is now authorized to spend for rapid transit facilities has been contracted for already.

"It follows," Mr. Rives says in a statement, "that at the present moment the city will be unable, unless the statute is changed, to make any extensions of the Rapid Transit road." Mayor Low said the Rapid Transit Commissioners favor the bill.

Arrivals on the Morro Castle.

Emilio Porre, Secretary of the Cuban Legation at Paris, arrived here to-day on the steamer Morro Castle. Other passengers were Congressman Sulzer, Frank Pavey, Frank Arbuckle and Charles Page.

Good Ground Thinks So and Men Are Dragging for His Body.